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The Balkans: a Laboratory of History. By WILLIAM M. SLOANE, Professor of History, Columbia University. (New York: Eaton and Mains; Cincinnati: Jennings and Graham. 1914. Pp., viii, 322.)

It cannot be said that this book is happy in either its title or its subtitle, for, to the expectant spirit of the present reviewer at least, the title seemed to promise something like a history of the Balkans, while the subtitle suggested that the offering would be in the nature of a series of seminar studies educing from Balkan examples some general principles of historical development. That nothing was farther from the author's mind than a book along such lines is frankly avowed in the preface, where we read that the present volume is composed of essays contributed some years ago to the *Political Science Quarterly* and recently rewritten in the light of the great Balkan conflict of 1912 and 1913. The author also informs us—and the vivacity of his text fully confirms the announcement—that he has been a frequent visitor of the steaming witch's-caldron of the southeast corner of Europe and that his pages record actual impressions received while adventurously sampling its changing sights and savors. If these circumstances of composition could have been suggested in the title the reader would have been spared a certain disillusionment; he would not have judged a collection of essays by the literary standards of a book and he would not have been constantly irritated by the absence of internal coherence and of unity of design. The author himself, impressed with the difficulty of making his traveller's views and discussions carry professional authority, was at pains to bind them together with a little historical cement. But the result is not encouraging. The first chapter, covering the long period from the coming of the Turks to the reign of Sultan Abdul Hamid, moves at such lightning speed that the whole mass of events runs into an indistinguishable blur. And when on later occasions some present-day issue is illuminated by opening a limited vista into the past the statement of fact frequently leaves much to be desired. There is no evidence that Stephan Dushan died while assaulting Constantinople (p. 68); Bulgarian beginnings go back far beyond the twelfth century (p. 126); it is a mistake to tell the story of the fall of Alexander of Battenberg in such a way as to leave the impression that the patriotic party got rid of him (p. 129); the *zupanate* was certainly not "a type of monarchy established by a certain Stephan" (p. 134); and neither the Servian church nor the Servian peasants are recognizable in the misstatements (pp. 134–135) intended to describe them. Everything considered, the historical background vouchsafed us by the author is slight and unreliable.

After this perhaps undue emphasis on what the book is not, it is right and proper to insist that as a discussion of the many contemporary problems vexing the Balkan world the volume has high merit and is

touched at all times with that liveliness which is bred of first-hand knowledge. In these problems too one could wish for more order and a better co-ordination, but at least the crucial topics are all broached and the evidence marshalled with information, breadth of view, and sympathetic understanding. In regard to the ethnology of the Balkans the author shares the opinion that the traditional theories as to the origin of the peoples of the southeast are all in the melting-pot; the doctrine of pure races, above all, invites his amused derision (ch. III.). The moral sham of the much bandied catch-words nationality and pan-Slavism is exposed, and Balkan federation, past and future, treated with that touch of cynicism which continued occupation with Balkan affairs imposes on the gentlest spirits. The atrocity charges of the recent war are examined with judicial calm (ch. VIII.), the future development of Bulgarians, Serbs, Rumanians, and Greeks subjected to a kindly analysis, and with the tentative air of a rather weary scholarship the book offers as the upshot of so many pages of travail the mild conclusion: "In particular the dogma that nationality, ecclesiasticism, and consanguinity are the foundations of political efficiency has been discredited."

BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Cyclopaedia of American Government. Edited by ANDREW C. McLAUGHLIN, A. M., LL. B., LL. D., Professor of History, University of Chicago, and ALBERT BUSHNELL HART, Ph. D., Litt. D., LL. D., Professor of the Science of Government, Harvard University. In three volumes. (New York and London: D. Appleton and Company. 1914. Pp. xxxiv, 732; vi, 773; v, 785.)

THIS work was planned and projected about four years ago. It now appears as the matured product of nearly 250 contributors who have co-operated under the editorial guidance of two well-known students of history, government, and law, Professor McLaughlin of the University of Chicago and Professor Hart of Harvard. No one can scan its comprehensive plan without conviction that the work was designed to meet a wide range of needs among those who desire to know something about the present and past workings of government. While the plan is not an imitation of any known to the reviewer, the work itself bears a likeness to such well-tested books of reference as Lalor's *Cyclopaedia of Political Science, Political Economy, and of the Political History of the United States* (3 vols., 1881-1884), Conrad's *Handwörterbuch der Staatswissenschaften* (third ed., 8 vols., 1909-1911), Maurice Block's *Dictionnaire Général de la Politique* (2 vols., 1873-1874), Cerboni's *Enciclopedia di Amministrazione di Industrie e Commercio* (5 vols., 1891-1904), and even to Palgrave's *Dictionary of Political Economy* (3 vols., and Appendix, 1901-1908). These are all works specially useful to students